



Environmental Justice Fact Sheet - ECO Intern Program

ECO Intern Program

Approximately 2,000

Associates at EPA

EPA and ECO have had a mutually beneficial partnership since the late 70's. Their goal continues to be to attract the best and brightest students with the hope that they will pursue a "green" career. The EPA-ECO partnership continues to flourish with more than 600 students being placed since January 1997, making a total of approximately 2,000 trainees and more than \$15 million of EPA extramural funds dedicated to their training since January 1992. At least 70 percent of the trainees are students of color, many from minority academic institutions of higher education. The program benefits both the student and EPA. The student gets to spend up to 6 months working full time at an EPA laboratory, regional office, or in a headquarters program while the EPA Sponsor gets the benefit of the student's skill and eagerness for a nominal investment on the average of \$12,000 extramural dollars per trainee-ship. The Cooperative Agreement is managed by Linda Smith (Project Officer) and Renee Goins (Program Manager) of the Office of Environmental Justice. For more information, call 202-564-2515.

Background

In recent years, EPA has initiated efforts to diversify its workforce. Through innovative and effective internships, the Office of Environmental Justice has contributed significantly to these endeavors. One of the barriers to increasing the cultural diversity of environmental decision makers, policy makers and science managers has been the limited number of students of color who choose to pursue environmental degrees, thus eliminating them from

consideration for these positions. To address this concern, there is an easy, user-friendly vehicle to bring culturally diverse students into the Agency through paid internships. This program allows the EPA Sponsor to meet qualified students and serves to attract the student to "green" careers. 1997 has been the most impressive year to date with over 400 interns placed since January! Since the Office of Environmental Justice took responsibility of the program in November 1992, there have been approximately 2,000 students trained with about 50 having been hired into permanent positions. Perhaps more importantly, the program has spurred about 25 percent of the participants to change their original career paths and choose environmental occupations.

A new three year cooperative agreement signed May 01, 2001, ensures that this program will continue at EPA.

Eligibility

TO BE AN INTERN you must currently be enrolled at a university or community college, or have graduated within 3 months, or be planning to return to school within 3 months of the start of the internship. The student may contact the EPA location at which you would like to train to see if an internship is available or you may apply directly with the Environmental Careers Organization, indicate your geographical preferences, and be considered for an internship anywhere at EPA as well as at all other locations served by ECO.

In any case, to be considered, you must send a resume to the Environmental Careers Organization at the addresses on the reverse of this page or you may e-mail your resume or complete the ECO Application on the ECO web site. Go to <http://www.eco.org>

TO BE AN EPA SPONSOR

You must develop a project for the internship (1 page or less) and have extramural funds available. The weekly stipend can vary but is usually \$400 for an undergraduate. The length of the trainee-ship depends on your need but is usually from 12 to 26 weeks. (approximately \$12,000 for a 12 week undergraduate which includes \$2,500 for travel). Next you should notify Renee Goins, by phone (202-564-2598), by fax (202-501-1106), or by e-mail

goins.renee@epamail.epa.gov

You may either identify a student or have ECO send you applications from their database which match the skills required in your project description. After you have decided on a student, you must obtain a formal budget sheet from ECO which will indicate the **exact** cost of the intern, prepare a commitment notice for this **exact amount**, and forward the budget sheet, the commitment notice and the project description to Renee Goins, MC-2201A, or deliver the package to Room 2224 Ariel Rios South. You will be notified of the date the intern may begin the trainee-ship by ECO.

INTERNS AND SPONSORS

BE AWARE

- ➔ To be an intern you must be a U.S. citizen.
- ➔ Children of EPA Employees Are Not Eligible.
- ➔ An intern may be advanced an additional \$500 of stipend to compensate if a geographical move is required.
 - ➔ Any travel that EPA may intend the intern to do as part of the trainee-ship must be added to the cost of the internship at the time the original paperwork is submitted.
 - ➔ The EPA Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that appropriate travel reports are submitted by the intern to ECO at the completion of each trip.

For General Information:

Call Renee Goins

202-564-2598

FAX 202-501-1106

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Interns Must Be U.S. Citizens

Children of EPA Employees Are Not Eligible.

Interns Must Be Students as explained above

EPA Sponsors Fund Interns with Extramural Money

Interns are ECO employees. They do not count under the EPA FTE Ceiling

EPA Sponsors Must Send Request for Interns to Renee Goins